

(19) World Intellectual Property  
Organization  
International Bureau



(43) International Publication Date  
19 May 2005 (19.05.2005)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number  
**WO 2005/044179 A3**

(51) International Patent Classification<sup>7</sup>: **A61K 35/78**

(21) International Application Number:  
PCT/US2004/020363

(22) International Filing Date: 25 June 2004 (25.06.2004)

(25) Filing Language: English

(26) Publication Language: English

(30) Priority Data:  
60/483,372 27 June 2003 (27.06.2003) US

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(81) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of national protection available): AE, AG, AL, AM,

AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NA, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.

(84) Designated States (unless otherwise indicated, for every kind of regional protection available): ARIPO (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, NA, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).

**Published:**

- with international search report
- before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments

(88) Date of publication of the international search report:  
29 September 2005

**(15) Information about Correction:**

**Previous Correction:**

see PCT Gazette No. 33/2005 of 18 August 2005, Section II

For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: FORMULATIONS CONTAINING ASTRAGALUS EXTRACTS AND USES THEREOF

(57) Abstract: Formulations containing plant extracts, in particular *Astragalus* extracts, and their use in inducing telomerase activity in cells, are described. Such compositions include pharmaceutical, including topical, and nutraceutical formulations. The methods and compositions are useful for treating diseases subject to treatment by an increase in telomerase activity in selected cells, such as, for example, HIV infection, various degenerative diseases, and acute or chronic skin ailments. They are also useful for enhancing replicative capacity of cells in culture, as in *ex vivo* cell therapy and proliferation of stem cells. Also described are cosmetic formulations of such extracts for conditioning the skin.



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